

1914

J. B. Earnstans. Box 3

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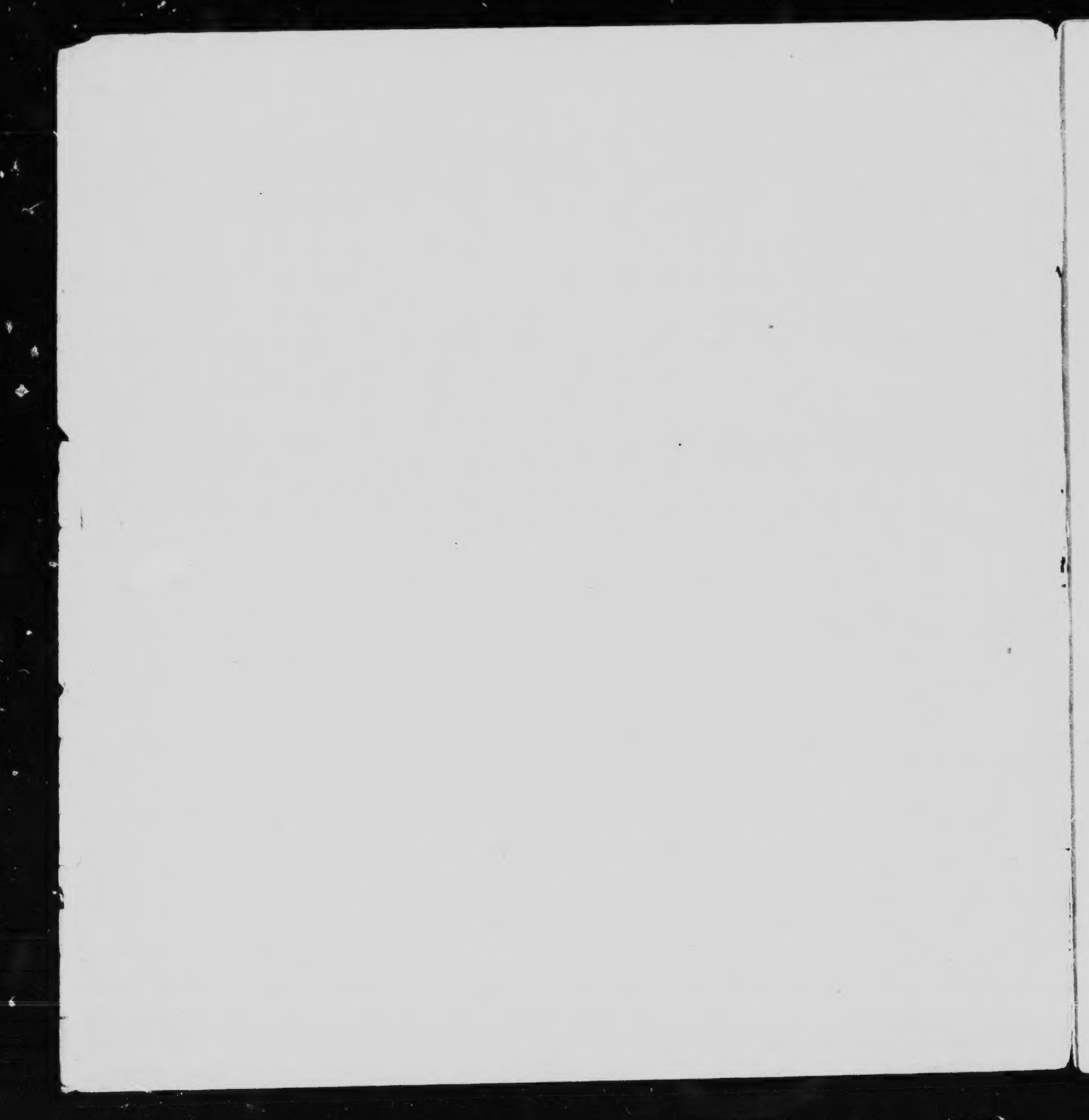
A

POLITICAL TALK

ON

“How to Abolish the Bar”





A POLITICAL TALK

Between Father Goodman and His Son

ON

"How to Abolish the Bar"

Son: Well, father, I have registered and am going to poll my first vote on the 29th of June.

Father: I am glad to hear it, my son. I well remember the first vote I polled some forty years ago.

Son: Are you in favor of abolishing the bar, father?

Father: Oh yes; I have supported every measure of temperance reform since I cast my first vote, and shall always be proud of the fact that on the 25th of January, 1905, I voted against my party and helped to put the Ross Government out of power because they repeatedly broke their promises to the electorate and were merely making temperance the football of the party.

Son: For whom are you going to vote, father?

Father: I am going to vote Conservative because that will be supporting the government of Sir James Whitney.

Son: Will not that be a vote against abolishing the bar instead of in favor of it?

Father: No; by no means. If you read what Mr. Rowell says he means by his policy of "Abolish the Bar" you will see that he deals only with hotel and club licenses and does not define any policy whatever as regards the shop licenses.

Son: Do you mean to say that people could get liquor from shops if the bars were closed?

Father: Oh, yes, the law of Ontario provides for the issue of three kinds of licenses, one to hotels, one to clubs and the other to shops, and it is only the licenses relating to hotels and clubs that Mr. Rowell's policy aims to abolish.

Son: Well father, would not the effect of closing the bars merely be to transfer the business now done by the hotels and clubs to the shops?

Father: Yes, I should think that would be the effect. In fact I remem-

ber reading an editorial in the Globe newspaper of the 12th December, 1910, entitled "Drinking Among Women" in which the writer said

"the truth is that many of the women of Toronto, barred from the saloon, have turned to the liquor store, and by that means supply themselves with spirits for home consumption on such a scale as to alarm the officials charged with the enforcement of the license laws. Of what use is it, they ask, to keep hotels out of the residential quarters, with the object of preventing the workmen from spending their evenings in them, when the women find a store round the corner at which they can get all the liquor they want? In the opinion of those whose advice is best worth having 25 liquor stores in the residential districts into which women can go without losing caste are a far more serious menace to the morality and the temperate habits of the people of Toronto than twice that number of downtown hotels."

Son: Well father, how is it that with this state of affairs Mr. Rowell does not provide for the abolition of the shop licenses as well as the bars in hotels and clubs?

Father: I don't know that I have ever heard any statement of his reasons for not so doing, but I understand that one of his candidates A. B. Farmer, says that he was informed by Rev. Ben H. Spence, who is one of Mr. Rowell's supporters that the leaving out of the shops for the time being was a compromise.

Son: Did he say with whom the compromise was made?

Father: No, I don't think he did and I don't know with whom it would be except possibly with the liquor wing of the Liberal party who are opposed to his policy of "Abolish the Bar."

Son: Do you know what the law of Ontario is now, father, in regard to this liquor question?

Present Legislation Explained

Father: Yes; there are two well-understood laws on the subject—one popularly known as "Local Option" referring to what are known as the Local Option clauses of the "Liquor License Act" and the other called "The Canada Temperance Act." Local Option is Ontario legislation and is applicable only to single municipalities, by which I mean a township or an incorporated village or town or city. The Canada Temperance Act is sometimes spoken of as the "Scott Act," having relation to the name of the member who introduced it into Parliament. It is a Dominion law and has been in force since the year 1878. The Canada Temperance Act is not applicable to a single municipality like Local Option, but is applicable only to cities and counties, but in other respects the effect

of passing either of them is practically the same; that is, by the enactment of either all retail liquor licenses in the particular municipality, county or city are wiped out.

Explanation of Three-fifths Clause

Son: Is there any particular difficulty in bringing either of these laws into effect in a municipality county or city?

Father: No. If the people desire to proceed under Local Option then 25 per cent. of the electors can submit a petition to the municipal council, and it is then the duty of the Municipal Council to submit a local option by-law to the electors for decision, and if 60 per cent. of the electors vote in favor of the by-law then it is carried and remains in force for a period of three years, and continues on after the three years unless repealed, and in order to repeal it those in favor of repealing it would require to go through the same procedure by presenting a petition to the municipal council and the repeal would require to secure a vote of sixty per cent. of the electors in the same way as the original by-law. This is what is called the three-fifths clause.

Son: Does the Canada Temperance Act require a vote of 60 per cent. of the electors in order to carry?

Father: No. A mere majority is all that is required.

Son: What do you understand to be the reason why it should require 60 per cent. of the vote for local option and only fifty per cent. for the Canada Temperance Act?

Father: My understanding of that is that owing to the small area comprised in a municipality to which local option is applicable it was felt that in order to insure greater stability in the law and to demonstrate that public sentiment was behind the change, that it would be reasonable to require a three-fifths majority either to enact the local option by-law or to repeal it.

In the Hands of the People

Son: What would require to be done by electors in a county or city if they desired to have the Canada Temperance Act brought into operation?

Father: A petition would have to be signed and presented through the Secretary of State of Canada to the Governor-General in Council, to the effect that the petitioners were desirous that the Act should be in force and take effect in such county or city, and that they desired that the votes of all the electors therein should be taken for and against the adoption of the petition.

Son: How many electors would require to sign the petition?

Father: 25 per cent., that is the same as for a local option contest, and there would require to be an advertisement for two weeks in two newspapers

in the city or county of the fact of the petition having been deposited for public examination either in the office of the Sheriff or Registrar of Deeds. If the petition is signed by 25 per cent. of the electors and notice of its deposit given for two weeks in the newspapers, then the Governor-in-Council may issue a proclamation naming a day on which the poll for taking the votes will be held.

Son: If 50 per cent., that is to say, a majority of the electors vote in favor of the petition how long would the Act remain in force?

Father: For 3 years and until repealed.

Son: What does the Canada Temperance Act provide as to the retail sale of liquor after the petition has been carried?

Father: It provides that from the time the proclamation goes into force and for so long thereafter as it continues in force no person shall within such city or county

"expose or keep for sale, or directly or indirectly on any pretence or upon any device, sell or barter, or give to any other person, any intoxicating liquor."

Son: Wouldn't that abolish shop licenses as well as hotel and club licenses?

Father: Yes, it certainly would.

Only a Half Measure

Son: Then of what benefit would it be to the community to support the Rowell policy of "Abolish the Bar" if the electors in any city or county can bring the Canada Temperance Act into force with so little trouble?

Father: It would not be of any use whatever. In fact as I said to you before, it is only a half-measure and relates only to hotel and club licenses, and in order to get rid of the liquor shops under Mr. Rowell's policy there would have to be a local option contest or a vote on the Canada Temperance Act which was successful before the shop licenses would be wiped out.

Son: If the Canada Temperance Act wipes out both bar and shop licenses why do not the temperance people bring on votes under it.

Father: They do. There was a vote a few months ago in the Counties of Huron, Peel and Welland, and the Act will duly come into force in Peel and Huron but did not carry in Welland.

Son: Suppose a man with a family in any city or county in Ontario wanted to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquor so as to protect his family from temptation what would be an advisable course for him to take?

Father: He should join with those who were of the same opinion as himself and have a vote under the Canada Temperance Act, and if a majority of one only of the electors voted in favor of it then it would abolish shop licenses as well as hotel and club licenses, and the retail liquor traffic would

be entirely out of business in the city or county. He could proceed under Local Option if he preferred to do so.

Son: What do you suppose is the reason why the clergymen of some of the churches are announcing themselves as in favor of Mr. Rowell's policy?

Father: I think they do not understand that the law of the land to-day is as far-reaching as it is. No doubt they are actuated by the best of motives, but in many cases they have only heard Mr. Rowell's side of the argument and probably do not know that by the Canada Temperance Act all retail liquor licenses can be put out of business at any time in any city or county on a mere majority vote of the electors. Then again no doubt some of them are Liberals and want to see the Liberal party returned to power.

Son: If a majority of the members of the Legislature were elected to be supporters of Mr. Rowell would that put the Whitney Government out of power?

Father: Yes, that would be the effect of it.

The Bilingual Question.

Son: Are there any other issues between the Conservatives and the Liberals in the Province of Ontario which would make it undesirable to put Mr. Rowell in power?

Father: Yes. One of the most dangerous and far-reaching questions which the people of Ontario will have to deal with is the so-called "Bilingual" question, that is, the claim of the French in Eastern, Northern and Western Ontario to have their children educated in the schools in French instead of English.

Son: What is the difference in policy between Conservatives and Liberals as regards these French-English schools?

Father: The Whitney Government have enacted what is called Regulation 17 of the Education Department which provides in effect that English and English only is to be the language both of instruction and communication between teachers and pupils in all public and Separate schools of Ontario except in the first form where by reason of the tender years of the pupil it does not understand the English language. But even in that class every pupil must be taught English from the day he enters school. Recently the Government appointed a chief inspector who has authority in the case of individual pupils to allow the limited use of French although they are not of tender years if he is convinced that such a course is necessary in order to teach them English.

Son: Do you mean to say that Mr. Rowell does not support the attitude of the Whitney Government in this regard?

Father: Mr. Rowell's position is very disappointing indeed. His aim,

judging from his speeches, seems to be to make the French electors think he is sympathetic with their obstruction of the inspectors and educational officials, and that if he were in power they might have French taught in their schools practically without restriction. Mr. Rowell has been asked time and again to say whether he approves of the Government's position but he always evades the question and says his policy, whatever it is, "is fair and just to all classes of the community," and my own opinion is that the trustees of the French-English schools in Ottawa and other portions of Eastern Ontario have been very much encouraged to defy the Government in every way they can; in fact they have gone so far as to instruct the children in case an inspector comes to the school to march out and not submit to be inspected.

What the Government Has Done

Son: What action has the Government taken in regard to these schools where the trustees have behaved in that way?

Father: The Government has cut off the school grants, but that has not so far been sufficient to compel obedience, and if the courts decide in the cases that are now being tried that the Government had authority by law to pass Regulation 17, then if the trustees do not submit probably other legislation will require to be enacted to enforce the law, because there is very little doubt in my mind that the overwhelming sentiment of the people of the Province of Ontario is that this is an English Province and that school children must not be permitted to grow up in any part of the Province without having an English education and that the schools of Ontario shall not be used for the advancement in Ontario of a propaganda engineered and financed from Quebec for the spread in Ontario of French-Canadian sentiment and privilege, and turn Ontario into another Quebec. In the Eastern counties of Ontario—such as Stormont and Glengarry, the English, Irish and Scotch settlers are being driven back day by day by an insidious and incessant French-Canadian crusade and the French portion is growing rapidly and is very aggressive, in fact to such an extent as to be a positive menace, which must be checked, and which Mr. Rowell is encouraging instead of upholding the hands of the Government.

Son: Does the law of Ontario prevent a father or mother from using French in their home?

Father: No; the right to use the French language in the family is not interfered with at all. The law only requires that where taxes are collected from the public to be expended in public instruction then that the instruction in the schools must be in the English language.

The Hydro-Electric Policy

Son: Are there any other important points of policy where ~~Conserva~~

tives and Liberals differ which would make it inadvisable to put Mr. Rowell in power?

Father: Yes; the Hydro-Electric policy of the Whitney Government has been brought to its present state of public usefulness entirely under the auspices of the Whitney Government in face of the gravest possible opposition of corporation influence which in many cases had the backing of prominent Liberals in the country, and every effort was made during the regime of the late Laurier Government to harass the Ontario Government and the Hydro-Electric Commission by threats of litigation over the question of the right to take water from the Niagara River for the purpose of generating power. The Liberal party in Ontario have never been in sympathy with Hon. Adam Beck and his associates and the "power policy," and in my opinion it would be nothing short of folly for the people to put Mr. Rowell and his friends in control of the affairs of the Province, particularly at this time when the power policy is to be enlarged by having a radial railway system linked up with it which will undoubtedly be of the greatest possible benefit to the entire community. Then there is also the Government policy of improving the highways which will be of incalculable benefit; the administration of the Crown Lands; the mining interests; the T. & N. O. Railway, and in fact the entire development of Northern Ontario would all be at stake if the electors allowed themselves to be hoodwinked on this question of "Abolish the Bar" which has absolutely no merit.

Workmen's Compensation Act

The Workmen's Compensation Act has just been passed and is now in the organization stage, and it would undoubtedly be contrary to the best interests of both workmen and employers for a change to take place in the Government so that the organization would be in weak or inexperienced hands, as it certainly would be if Mr. Rowell and his political friends were in power, as there is not sufficient strength on that side of the House to supervise the organization of this very important measure which depends for its success upon strong and capable administration.

Son: Well, father, it certainly looks to me as if Mr. Rowell was merely trying to throw dust in the eyes of the public on this temperance question for the sake of getting into office.

Father: I quite agree with you, and I cannot conceive for a moment that an intelligent electorate will be carried away in the slightest degree, particularly when they come to consider, as the fact is, that since Sir James Whitney came into power in 1905 the number of licenses has been decreased from 2,836 to 1,600, that is, by 1,236, and that without the exception of a single year, legislation has been passed every year by the Whitney Government to improve the working of the Local Option laws, so

that even such a temperance man as the Rev. Ben H. Spence praised the amendments to the Local Option Act of 1912 by saying of it that it was one of the best strokes of legislation along temperance lines that had been enacted by any Legislature within recent years, and the organ of the Temperance party, that is "The Pioneer," has publicly stated that "the liquor laws are carried out in a manner that reflects credit upon the Government in general and in particular upon the gentleman who is at the head of the License Department."

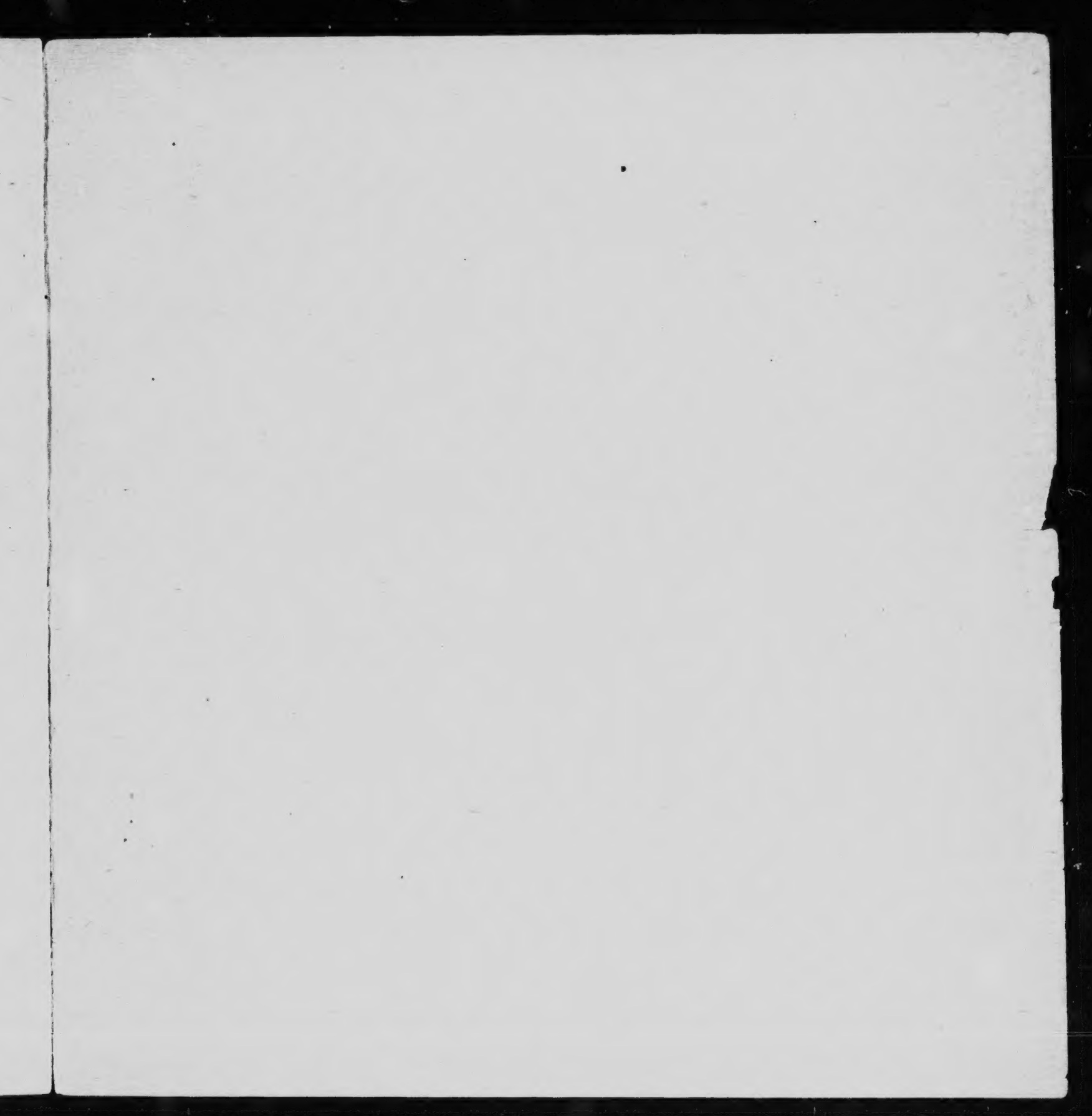
Local Option Laws Enforced

Son: Has the Whitney Government been active in your opinion in enforcing the Local Option laws since they have been in power?

Father: Yes, I can conscientiously say they have. Why, when you compare the moneys expended by the Whitney Government in enforcing the liquor laws with the expenditures by the late Ross Government the contrast is startling. Including the amount of \$45,000 set apart at the last session of the Legislature for enforcing the law, including the Canada Temperance Act in the Counties of Peel and Huron, the amount expended by the Whitney Government in enforcing the law is no less than \$236,630, as against the sum of \$4,188 spent by the late Liberal Government during the 15 years preceding their downfall. Then again at the last session of the Legislature the Whitney Government passed an Act facilitating the administration of the law in counties where the Canada Temperance Act was in force and providing that one-half of any deficiency in the expense of enforcing the law will be made up by the Province. The Pioneer of 14th June, 1912, said

"The Ontario Government and Legislature have developed law-enforcing machinery fitted to the details of their own legislation, and the working of that law is now so well understood that it goes on with comparatively little difficulty and with an immense amount of success. Outside the fact that it is applicable to places that have no municipal organization, there is probably only one good feature of the Canada Temperance Act that is not to be found—and often in more effective form—in the Local Option legislation, that is, the fact that it may be adopted by a majority of the electors voting upon it."

Son: Well, father, your intention to vote Conservative certainly has solid and substantial reasons to support it, so we will go to the poll together and stand by the Whitney Government.



Electors of Parkdale:

Your vote and influence are respectfully requested to secure the election of

WM. H. PRICE

STANDARD-BEARER OF THE WHITNEY GOVERNMENT

ELECTION DAY MONDAY, 29th JUNE, 1914